Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) Sustained-release morphine sulphate microgranules each comprising a neutral support grain coated with an active layer and with a sustained-release layer, characterized in that the sustained-release layer contains a copolymer of methacrylic acid and of methyl methacrylate ester, the relative proportion of the free carboxyl groups and of the ester groups of which is equal to 0.5 approximately, and a silica exhibiting a hydrophobic character.

2. (Original) Microgranules according to Claim 1, characterized in that the hydrophobic silica represents from 0.2 to 1% by weight of the microgranules.

3. (Previously presented) Microgranules according to claim 1, characterized in that the acrylic copolymer represents advantageously 5 to 15% by weight of the microgranules.

4. (Previously presented) Microgranules according to claim 1, characterized in that the neutral support grain coated with the active layer contains 40% to 50% of morphine sulphate and 10 to 20% of a pharmaceutically acceptable binder.

5. (Previously presented) Microgranules according to claim 1, characterized in that the sustained-release layer contains a plasticizer and a lubricant.

6. (Currently amended) Sustained-release morphine sulphate microgranules each comprising a neutral support grain coated with an active layer and with a sustained-release layer, characterized in that the sustained-release layer contains a copolymer of poly(ethyl acrylate, methyl methyacrylate, trimethylammonioethyl methacrylate chloride) 1:2:0.1 and a silica exhibiting a hydrophobic character.

7. (Previously presented) Microgranules according to claim 1, characterized in that the relative mass proportion of the morphine sulphate and of the neutral support grain is between 40/60 and 60/40.

8. (Previously presented) Microgranules according to claim 1, characterized in that the morphine sulphate represents 30 to 40% by mass of the microgranules.

9. (Currently amended) Process for preparing the microgranules according to claim 6, ~~claim 1,~~ characterized in that the active layer and the sustained-release layer are applied onto the neutral grains by emplcing in aqueous solution.

10. (Currently amended) Pharmaceutical composition containing the microgranules according to claim 6, ~~claim 1~~ optionally obtained according to the process for preparing the microgranules, characterized in that the active layer and the sustained-release layer are applied onto the neutral grains by emplacing in aqueous solution.

11. (Previously presented) Microgranules according to claim 5, wherein the plasticizer is triethylcitrate.

12. (Previously presented) Microgranules according to claim 6, further comprising 30-40 %wt morphine sulphate.

13. (Previously presented) Microgranules according to claim 6, further comprising 30-40 %wt neutral support grain.

14. (Previously presented) Microgranules according to claim 6, further comprising 10-20 %wt binder.

15. (Previously presented) Microgranules according to claim 6, further comprising 1-2.5 %wt plasticizer.

16. (Previously presented) Microgranules according to claim 6, further comprising 2-4 %wt lubricant.

17. (Previously presented) Microgranules according to claim 6, further comprising 0.2-1 %wt hydrophobic silica.

18. (Previously presented) Microgranules according to claim 6, further comprising 5-15 %wt methacrylic acid copolymer.

19. (Previously presented) Microgranules according to claim 6, further comprising 30-40 %wt morphine sulphate, 30-40 %wt neutral support grain, 10-20 %wt binder, 1-2.5 %wt plasticizer, 2-4 %wt lubricant, and 0.2-1 %wt hydrophobic silica.

20. (New) Microgranules according to claim 6, characterized in that they have the following composition (% by mass):

morphine sulphate	37.3
neutral grains	37.3
hydroxypropylmethylcellulose	13.0
poly(ethylacrylate, methyl methacrylate, trimethylammonioethyl methacrylate chloride) 1:2:0.1	8.2
triethylcitrate	1.6
talc and	2.1
hydrophobic silica	0.4.

21. (New) Microgranules according to claim 6, characterized in that they have the following composition (% by mass):

morphine sulphate	35.1
neutral grains	39.7
hydroxypropylmethylcellulose	12.3
poly(ethylacrylate, methyl methacrylate, trimethylammonioethyl methacrylate chloride) 1:2:0.1	8.2

triethylcitrate	1.6
talc and	2.6
hydrophobic silica	0.4.

22. (New) Microgranules according to claim 6, characterized in that they have the following composition (% by mass):

morphine sulphate	40.9
neutral grains	34.3
hydroxypropylmethylcellulose	14.3
poly(ethylacrylate, methyl methacrylate, trimethylammonioethyl methacrylate chloride) 1:2:0.1	6.7
triethylcitrate	1.3
talc and	2.2
hydrophobic silica	0.3.

23. (New) Microgranules according to claim 6, characterized in that they have the following composition (% by mass):

morphine sulphate	41.9
neutral grains	33.0
hydroxypropylmethylcellulose	11.7

PEG 4000	2.9
poly(ethylacrylate, methyl methacrylate, trimethylammonioethyl methacrylate chloride) 1:2:0.1	7.3
triethylcitrate	1.4
talc	1.4
hydrophobic silica	0.4